Mr. P. Rama Menon.—May I know how the Government got this information. Taking into consideration all the decrees how can the Government know whether it is agricultural indebtedness or not?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The question was referred to the Chief Court and it is the information furnished by the Chief Court.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do not the Government think that they ought to have done something to prevent the borrowing of loans for non-productive purposes?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Unfortunately it is not in their power to prevent debtors from paying.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then what about your Usurious Loans Bill?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Even if the Usurious Loans Bill is passed it will not prevent the amount going to 6 or 8 times the principal.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Can I get some information that if the Usurious Loans Bill was passed it would have prevented the amount of the loan swelling to 8 or 9 times the principal.

President.—The Hon'ble Member will kindly prefer the supplementary questions to the questions that are answered. We have no Usurious Loans Bill now.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question is about the Government's failure for not having taken prompt measures against the swelling of interest and I want to know what the Government have done with regard to the Usurious Loans Bill which they have once introduced into this Council. I think it is a vital matter and if they have passed this Bill it would have helped much.

President.—That is not a question but it is your opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What have they done with the Usurious Loans Bill?

President.—That is why I say that the question of the Bill is not relevant to the question here.

Peasantry—progressive ruin of.

367. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to Question No. 426, dated 11th August 1933 regarding the progressive ruin of our peasantry, will the Government state the reasons for their 'No' and give the answers to the two latter points raised in the question?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon— It is not feasible to collect the necessary materials to answer the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—This is with reference to question No. 426 dated 11th August 1933. That question is again with reference to question No. 452 dated 25th February 1932. That question runs thus:—

"On the strength of all the data available now, will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the total number of instances wherein land of the judgment debtors was auctioned in law and got by the Judgment creditors, the price of which was (1) ten times and more (2) five times and more (3) twice and more and (4) below the best price the land could have procured under the most favourable conditions of the day's market.

(b) the reasons for the situations in (a).

(c) the ways how Government intend to prevent their repetition?". The answer given was "The materials available do not admit of an answer to the question". The present Hon'ble Member takes the view that there is no material whatsoever. The Present answer is that it is not possible to collect the necessary materials. It is a retrograde step. I ask, whether it is not highly essential to collect statistics on such an important matter that is very closely and intimately connected with the problem of agricultural indebtedness and the material prosperity of a large section of the Majority.

President.—However important the thing may be if it is not feasible what is the use?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—They must satisfy us that it is not feasible. It is not enough if they say simply so dictatorially. They must give reasons.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The non-feasibility is apparent at a glance of the question which is the total number of instances wherein land of the Judgment debtors was auctioned in law and got by the judgment creditors, the price of which was (1) ten times and more (2) five times and more (3) twice and more and (4) below the best price the land could have procured under the most favourable conditions of the day's market? No time-limit is given. We do not know from where to begin and where to end. The answer is quite correct. The materials available do not admit of an answer. The materials available are the decrees, and it is very difficult to make out these things from the decrees. So in the opinion of the Government it is not feasible to collect the necessary materials.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Already in the appendix given to the answer you have furnished that it has swelled to four or six times.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—All the materials we have, we have placed. We do not find it feasible to collect any further materials.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government admit that there is a failure of duty?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The Government do not.

Economic depression relief measures loan.

368. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the notice dated 16th Makaram 1110 published in the Government Gazette by the Diwan Peishkar about furnishing further information regarding loans applied for from Government and state:—

(a) when was the notification first published in the Government Gazette;

(b) the period within which additional information called for should be furnished;

(c) whether all those who applied for loans have furnished within the above period the additional information required; and if not;

(d) what percentage of the applicants has furnished it; and

(e) the reason for limiting the period to two weeks?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—A copy of the notice referred to is appended. *(Vide Appendix III.)*

(a) On 27th Makaram 1110.

(b) Within 15 days from the date of the notice.

(c) Some of the applicants have already furnished the information called for, while others are still furnishing the same.

(d) About 5 per cent of the applicants would have furnished the information by this time.

(e) The latest date for submission of fresh applications in accordance with the new scheme was 30th Makaram. The period of 15 days was allowed in the notice dated 16th Makaram 1110 with the view that the additional information in respect of all the old applications may also be received by the same date, namely 30th Makaram.

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